

CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings.

1. (Previously Presented) Aircraft defining a cargo compartment and comprising a cargo-compartment floor; supporting beams supporting said cargo-compartment floor and connected to a skin of the aircraft; at least one functional unit; and a pallet supporting said functional unit, said pallet being adapted for the transportation of said functional unit into said cargo compartment and being provided with a fixation means that provides a stable connection to said cargo-compartment floor.
2. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the pallet and the cargo-compartment floor comprise connecting devices adapted to join a connection lead of the functional unit to a corresponding connection lead of the aircraft.
3. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 1, wherein said cargo compartment comprises guide means adapted to guide said functional unit as it is being transported within the cargo compartment.
4. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 3, wherein said guide means comprises guide rails located along at least one of side walls and a ceiling defining said cargo compartment.

5. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 1, wherein at least one section of a partition is mounted on said pallet.

6. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 5, wherein said functional unit is mounted on said at least one section a partition.

7. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 5, wherein said partition comprises sealing means whereby it is sealed to the parts of the aircraft defining said cargo compartment.

8. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 1, wherein said cargo-compartment floor comprises floor elements that are connected to the supporting beams to form prefabricated floor modules.

9. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein sections of conducting devices comprising at least one of cable channels, hydraulic conduits, water conduits, electrical leads and other conducting devices are provided in the floor modules in such a way that those in one floor module connect with others of the same kind in adjacent floor modules to form overall conducting systems on installation in the aircraft.

10. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said

conducting devices comprises a branch adapted for connection to a prespecified place on at least one of said floor elements and said functional unit.

11. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein said cargo-compartment floor comprises a plurality of prefabricated floor modules and wherein a plurality of assembly elements are provided to connect each of said floor modules to adjacent floor module during or after installation in the aircraft.

12. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein said floor elements comprise sealing devices adapted to seal off a space defined above said floor elements from a space defined below them.

13. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein leakproof connecting elements are provided and form a leakproof connection between each of said the floor elements and at least one of adjacent floor elements and the skin of the aircraft.

14. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to one claim 8, wherein drainage devices are provided to carry a liquid out of the cargo compartment and to transfer said liquid into a corresponding drainage device of an adjacent floor module.

15. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein said floor modules comprise insulating devices adapted to insulate a lower portion of a fuselage of the aircraft.

16. (Currently Amended) Aircraft according to claim 15, wherein said insulating devices are attached to at least one of below said floor elements and in the region of the supporting beams near to said skin of the aircraft.

17. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein said floor modules comprise at least one of a partition and a fixation device for a partition.

18. (Previously Presented) Aircraft according to claim 8, wherein said floor modules comprise at least one of a lining element and a or mounting devices for said elements, in order to line the cargo compartment.

19. (Previously Presented) Method of manufacturing an aircraft comprising the steps of building a cargo compartment with a cargo-compartment floor; providing supporting beams supporting said cargo-compartment floor and connected to a skin of the aircraft; providing at least one functional unit; providing at least one pallet; mounting said functional unit on said pallet outside the aircraft; loading said functional unit mounted on said pallet into the aircraft; transporting said functional unit mounted on said pallet over said cargo-compartment floor a

destination in the cargo compartment; and fixing said functional unit mounted on said pallet to the cargo-compartment floor at the destination site.

20. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein at least sections of partitions are mounted on at least one of the pallets and the functional unit while they are outside the aircraft prior to installation therein.

21. (Previously Presented) A pre-fabricated floor module for an aircraft comprising a floor element, supporting beams connected to said floor element and adapted for connection to a skin of an aircraft to form at least part of a floor of a cargo-compartment of said aircraft, and a plurality of assembly elements connected to said floor element and adapted to connect said floor module to adjacent similar floor modules during or after installation in the aircraft.

22. (Previously Presented) A floor module according to claim 21, comprising sections of conducting devices being at least one of a cable channel, an hydraulic conduit, a water conduit, an electrical lead and other conducting device that are located in the floor module in such a way that each will connect with another of the same kind in an adjacent floor module to form an overall conducting systems on installation of all said modules in the aircraft.

23. (Previously Presented) A floor module according to claim 22, wherein at least one of said

conducting devices comprises a branch adapted for connection to a prespecified place on said
floor element.